

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 51

February 2004

No. 2

Town Council Notes

"The mains are breaking everywhere," the Town Manager announced at one point during the February 9 Town Council meeting; to my ears, this sounded pretty dire. But apparently things are under control. There have been four water main breaks nearby recently (some related to the work on Strathmore) with some flooding of Porcupine Woods, but no major damage done.

And this was about as exciting as it got at the meeting, since you've probably already heard that Garrett Park, in another step toward total moral degeneracy, will be opening a Black Market in town soon. Black Market is the name of the restaurant-to-be, owned by the owners of Addie's, that will be part of the new Penn Place. (All of Penn Place, by the way, is now rented.)

After the approval of the agenda and minutes, the Mayor announced that on Saturday, February 21, at 8:30 am, the Council will hold a budget workshop session. Citizens are invited to attend. Among other things, the question of integrating Penn Place into the budget will be considered.

The Mayor again reminded people that cars must stop for pedestrians at all intersections—especially the notorious Strathmore/Kenilworth intersection. All Ride-On buses have been directed to stop at crosswalks. Everyone should make a serious effort to be extremely cautious; see p 2 for a report on the children who were struck at the intersection of Strathmore and Flanders.

Under Action Items: Tom Rodes has been appointed to the Arboretum Committee; the



Calendar

Wed., Feb. 25	Citizens Association Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sun., Feb. 29	Paul Edlund book signing, Town Hall, 3–5 pm
Wed. Mar. 3	Weekly yard waste collection begins (goes until October)
Mon., Mar. 8	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Tues., Mar. 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Mar. 27	Voter registration, Town Hall, 8 am to 12 noon
Sun., Mar. 28	Musicale, Town Hall, 4 pm
Wed., Mar. 31	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; nominations for Town Council

Mayor expressed his gratitude for Tom's willingness to serve, and mentioned that there are still vacancies on this important committee. The question of the variance for 11106 Kenilworth remains under discussion, with ongoing consideration of proposed revisions of the application that would make it acceptable to the Council.

The Town Manager reported that in January we remained within the parameters of our budget. We have a Tenant Improvements fund in the budget, some of which has been spent; what's

(continued next page)

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(continued from previous page)
left over will go back into general Penn Place funds.

This was a brisk and smoothly run meeting on a lovely clear night—a model of civil exchange and administrative efficiency.

Margaret Soltan

Children Struck on Strathmore

On Tuesday, February 10, two Garrett Park Elementary School students were struck by a car while trying to cross Strathmore at Flanners Avenue. It was at 4:15 in the afternoon after Homework Club dismissal. They were in the pedestrian crosswalk, and the car did stop and stay after the accident. Principal Derby and several teachers stayed with the children until they were taken to area hospitals. Both children were released to go home by bedtime, and neither had any broken bones—just bruises.

Pedestrian Safety for Crossing Strathmore: Fix it now!

GPCA Meeting
Wednesday, February 25
8 pm at the Town Hall



GPES

If your child will be ready for Kindergarten next September, please call the school (301-929-2170) to start the registration process. Orientation will be in April, and information will be sent out before that. You will need a birth certificate, proof of residence, and shot records to enroll your child.

Townpeople are invited to hear a 3rd grade recorder concert on February 24 at 7:30 pm in the multi-purpose room. On the 26th at 7:30 pm the school will be holding its annual International Night. Most of the countries represented in the student body will have exhibits about their homelands. You are invited to come, but let it be known that it will be crowded.

Mary Moyer



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Citizens Association

We want to thank Ken Schwartz for his great leadership over the past two years and for showing all of us (the other officers) what the organization is about and how to run it. Thanks, Ken! And welcome to Jack Mandel as the incoming co-president—we look forward to acting on his many good ideas.

Please join us on February 25 at 8 pm at the Town Hall for a forum on pedestrian safety on Strathmore Ave. We will announce dates soon for other activities and meetings in 2004.

For February's banner we are indebted to Patrick and Therese Keating of Clermont Place, who sent in a check to help keep the Banner Greening Fund in the black (or green as the case may be). We thank them. (Speaking of money, please feel free to mail in your Citizens Association dues, at \$5 per person or \$10 per family at an address, to Box 456. Dues help defray the cost of the Town Dinner, 4th of July activities, and the Newcomers Welcome, as well as the costs incurred in printing this publication.)

During the Town Dinner, fitting in with this year's theme, Flights of Fancy, attendees were invited to tell about misadventures or little white lies they had told over the years. One resident, who shall remain nameless, related that she never told lies! And possibly for the first time no one left before the end. We also had another first: people who called in their reservations at the last minute were turned away because of a shortage of space. Next year remember to reserve your spot early. We can only handle about 75 hungry participants. Kudos must go to the decorating crew, especially Marian Green and her centerpieces and Peggy Pratt and her nimble bending of paperclips. It's taking less and less time to put it all together—next year maybe you can volunteer to help!

If you missed the dinner, you missed betting on when the Penn Place Post Office will officially open. If you wish to pick a date for \$1, give Matt Stavish a call, and he will tell you which dates are still available. Of course you will have to get your \$1 to him also.

Gene Brantly and Mary Moyer

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:
Co-presidents: Gene Brantly
Jack Mandel
Vice president: Matt Stavish
Treasurer: Anne Mizoguchi
Secretary: Laura Krupp

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted to Mary Moyer, Box 98, or by email to Barbra Collier. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Town Budget: Because of changes in estimates of income (down again, unfortunately) the Council passed an ordinance at its February meeting that reduces this year's operating budget by approximately \$4,000, uses \$5,000 of the Contingency line in the budget, and transfers in \$19,650 from the Operating Reserve. The Capital Budget is increased by \$101,147: \$15,000 for additional street lights, \$55,000 for the stone facing on the new Strathmore Avenue retaining walls, \$3,000 for a large lawn mower, \$10,000 for storm drain repairs, and \$18,000 in contingency. The entire increase is funded from unspent capital appropriations for completed projects, so the actual amount of new funds remains constant at \$100,000. Copies of Ordinance 2004-01 have been posted and are also available at the Town Office.

State Tax Form Reminder: When filling out your state income tax forms, please remember to write "Garrett Park" in the box labeled "City, town or taxing area." This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues that the state distributes to the 23 counties and 157 incorporated cities and towns throughout Maryland. Many of the local government services we all rely on are supported by this revenue. The Town Office can provide photocopies of most IRS forms, so stop by if you need any.

Town Elections 2004: Election Day in Garrett Park will be Monday, May 3, 2004. Our Mayor and two Council seats are up for election: The terms of office for Councilmembers Art Bennett and Hans Wegner are up this year.

Nominations will be held at the Citizens Association meeting on March 31; the Candidates Forum is set for April 28. Additional nominations may be made by written petition signed by 10 registered voters and filed with the Town Administrator by Monday, April 12. The last day to register to vote in this election is April 3. (To be eligible to vote you need to be registered with Montgomery County, or on the list of qualified noncitizen Garrett Park residents.) Absentee ballots will be available upon request at the Town Office.

If you have not voted in the last five years, your name will have been withdrawn from the

active file by Montgomery County, and you will need to reregister. You may register at any time by calling the Town Office for the necessary forms (or for address change forms). You may also register in Town Hall during normal office hours. Special registration hours will also be held on Saturday, March 27, and Saturday, April 3, from 8 am until noon. Please call the Town Office with any questions regarding registration, qualification of voters, nominations, etc.

Ted Pratt
Garrett-park@comcast.net, 301-933-7488

House Tour Needs Volunteers

It's been a long time since we have had a house tour, so the Women's Club and the Historic Preservation Committee are planning one for this spring. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 25, from 12 to 5. This year the theme is "Garrett Park through the Decades," and houses will be featured that illustrate the development of Garrett Park from its beginnings to the present. The house tour is very labor intensive, so lots of volunteers will be needed. We need volunteers to stand in the houses for a two-hour shift; we need people to bake for and help serve the tea at the Town Hall from 4 to 6, and we need help setting up on the day of the tour. High school students can get community service credits for helping out.

Please fill out the form below, and either send it to "House Tour" at box 578, or drop it in the envelope at the Post Office. There will also be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board at the Post Office. Volunteering for a few hours leaves plenty of time (and a complimentary ticket) to visit other tour houses. It's fun, and you get to see lots of your neighbors. If you have friends from outside Garrett Park (book club, office, religious institution), invite them to volunteer and have a chance to join the tour.

House Tour Volunteer Form

Name:_____

Phone No.:_____

email: _____

I would like to help with—

Taking a shift as host/hostess in a house_____

Helping with tea at the Town Hall:

baking _____

serving _____

Setting up before tour _____

Other _____

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Ruth Druhan, mother of Mary Ruttkay, was robbed of her purse on January 22 in front of Mary's house. The good news is that two teens have been charged with robbery and assault of four women from the area, of which Ruth was the last. Two 16-year-olds are in custody.
- ♪ Anne Gabriel Janney (75) died on January 31, 2004, at the Montgomery Village Care Center in Gaithersburg. She is survived by her five children, Diane, Christopher, Oliver, and Dorian Janney, and Eve Graziani. A memorial service was held in the Town Hall on February 7.
- ♪ Do you need financial aid for college for the fall semester of 2004? Now is the time to apply. Complete the 2004-05 Free Application for Federal Student Aid on the Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov or get a paper copy at campus financial aid offices. The deadline for Maryland State Scholarship consideration is March 15.
- ♪ Sean Ruttkay made the Dean's List at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He is a senior who will be graduating with a degree in Special Education. Congratulations, Sean (and Mary and Tom).
- ♪ Peg Winegarden in Rochester, New York, wrote on January 28 that she was enclosed by several feet of snow, but she still keeps feeding the birds—including the pigeons. She sends her love to everyone who remembers her, and her family.
- ♪ Zoe Morris Conrad sent along a subscription for the *Bugle* and said she looks forward to keeping up on the news. She and husband George divide their time between Maine and Florida now.
- ♪ Jennie Forehand announces that there will be a District 17 Town Meeting and Reception on Sunday, March 7, from 2 to 4 pm at the Rockville Senior Center. Questions or RSVP: 301-858-3134.

Obituary

Mabel Davis Kizer

Mabel Davis Kizer died on December 20, 2003, at the age of 92, from complications resulting from a fall. She and her husband Albert, who died in 1986, moved to Strathmore Avenue in 1935. They moved into a house on Rokeby Avenue upon its completion in 1938. Al owned the 10-chair barbershop that once existed on Old Georgetown Road and Wisconsin Avenue.

Mabel sang professionally at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., in the 1940's. She was very active in Garrett Park activities, often turning Great Depression deprivations into neighborhood community dinners. Upon the re-formation of the Woman's Club in Garrett Park, Mabel served as its first president for 12 years in the late 40's to early 50's. She was very active with the Girl Scouts, loved music, played the piano, and sang with amateur singing groups.

Mabel is survived by her children, Nita Smith, Nancy Miller, Richard Kizer, and Susan Mendelson; 17 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and two sisters.

Michael Mendelson

Letter to the Editor

We Need a Stoplight

For years, the worried parents and fearful pedestrians of our town have fought for a stoplight at Kenilworth and Strathmore. "Get it done," they pleaded, "before a kid gets hit by a car, before it's too late." It just became too late. Let's stop debating and get the job done.

Jeremy Lichtenstein



Arboretum Notes

The Arboretum Committee is pleased to welcome new member Tom Rodes. Tom's interest in helping preserve and expand the town's inventory of trees comes naturally.

One of his grandfathers directed the Missouri Botanical Garden, and his mother was the first woman elected to the National Board of the Society of Landscape Architects. Tom notes that he has time to devote to the Committee's undertakings, and hopes his efforts will extend interest in the Arboretum among both town residents and outsiders who come to visit.

There are two vacancies on the Arboretum Committee. Although the Committee has benefited greatly from expertise among its members, you don't need to be an expert to volunteer. With the ice retreating (we hope) and spring on the way, it's a good time to get involved. Those interested should contact Ted Pratt in the Town Office.



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Letter to Our Readers

After 16 years of working on the *Bugle*, I announced at the Town Dinner my intention to step down at the end of this printing year (July). For those of you who weren't at the Town Dinner, here is a poem that I read:

I have a short tale to relate,
From the long ago year of '88

Millie Huffman and I
In the blink of an eye
Decided to try
To edit our local epistle.

And when she bailed out
I continued to shout
The news round about
In our fair town of the moving train whistle.

Thus for 16 full years
I have tried to steer clear
Of trying to endear
Myself to the town constituents.

Having had the tough chore
Of town meetings galore
The Town Council's rapport
Was ruined by various entanglements.

By being the town crier
Did not make me shy
But caused me to aspire
To find news that was not mediocrity.

But now cause of concerns
And wanting to return
To not having to learn
The rigors of computer necessity,
And with much contemplation
And hard cogitation,
With consideration
I will retire this year as an editor.

All the staff will remain
All news is fair game
But we need a new name
To tell the town whatever's in store.
So I hereby notify
I'll stay on till July
Willing to edify
But after that I'm telling you—bye-bye.

So if any of you have an interest in taking over next September for the *Bugle's* next printing year, please get in touch with me, co-editor Barbara Collier, or anyone on the Citizens Association Board (consult the masthead box on p 2).

It was suggested that I put in this issue the list of things that I do, so a new person or persons will know what to expect. So here goes:

1. Get the dates together for the calendar (from different town organizations and Tedd Pratt, the Town Administrator).
2. Collect tidbits from residents for the "Sweet and Sour Notes" (they come by phone, mail, and at the door).
3. If something exciting happens in town (trees down, fires, robberies), write about it.
4. Welcome newcomers (new babies or adults) and put in obituaries.
5. Attend the officers meetings (once a month) of the Citizens Association to get information about future events, and make sure the Town Council meeting is covered (there have been three of us doing this last).
6. Take care of the special issue items. June: the 4th of July activities and graduates from high school and college. April: the Town Council candidates' statements. May and October: baby- and petsitter lists, snow shovelers.
7. Type up articles and email them to Barbara Collier or put them on a disk and give it to her.
8. Try not to take yourself too seriously, and not take sides in town battles. You should write clearly, but sometimes with tongue in cheek. A little humor can go a long way.
9. It's not a hard job; one weekend will get all the writeups done. If you would like to, you can join in the folding party for one hour, held two Fridays after the deadline.

I will continue to do the greening of the banner fund and the ads, so our new reporter/editor will not have to handle any money.

It's been a great, fun-filled, exasperating (at times), educational, good for my ego, 16 years. Thank you for the standing ovation at the Town Dinner.

Mary Moyer

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Letter from the Mayor

In last month's letter, I expressed concern for the safety of pedestrians crossing Strathmore Avenue, particularly during the extended construction period we are experiencing. My fears were confirmed when two Garrett Park Elementary School students were struck by a car and injured while trying to cross Strathmore at Flanders Avenue. This has shocked and saddened our community. There are many things we can do to minimize the potential for these accidents.

Last month I called upon all Garrett Park residents to heed the state law and stop for pedestrians at crosswalks. The injured children were in a crosswalk, and the motorist who struck them ignored that law. There are signs at both ends of town reminding motorists of the crosswalk law. We must obey it and set an example for others who drive on Strathmore. Perhaps we can educate our own citizens and others who use this thoroughfare regularly that stopping for pedestrians is more than a courtesy; it is a safety measure.

Last month I also wrote to the General Manager of Ride-On, asking her to request bus drivers to stop for pedestrians as they traverse Strathmore. She has responded by reeducating the drivers, posting notices, and asking supervisors to remind the operators periodically. I also wrote to Betsy Davis, the Commander of the Bethesda District of the Montgomery County Police, asking her to have her officers also set an example by stopping at crosswalks for pedestrians along Strathmore (see Special Notice, right). I will also talk to Lee Derby, principal of Garrett Park Elementary School, to see how the town and school system can work together to prevent future accidents.

The current construction along Strathmore is the result of an effort of town citizens, working with the State Highway Administration, to calm traffic along the street. Narrowing the lanes and using landscaping to enclose the visual space will tend to cause drivers to drive more slowly. The use of alternative materials on the crosswalks at either end of town will also remind drivers about the pedestrian traffic. And we have requested that lights be embedded in the street at the crosswalks, activated by pedestrians, to alert cars to pedestrians in the crosswalks.

To investigate further actions and implement more immediate solutions, I have asked Councilmember Elin Quigley to put together a team of town residents and other interested parties, to work with the State Highway Administration, the police, and the county. Their agenda will include not only the traffic light at Kenilworth, but also stronger enforcement, additional measures as part of the construction program currently under way, and any other ideas that they develop. If you are interested in helping, please call or email Elin.

But most of all, each of us can contribute by watching out for pedestrians and by stopping at crosswalks when pedestrians are trying to cross. We can do a lot by acting individually to enhance pedestrian safety. Please do your part.

Special Notice: Pedestrian Safety

When the accident occurred involving the two children, I had not had a response from Cdr. Davis of the Bethesda District, and so I called her to see if we could discuss the issue. My call was returned by Sgt. Russell, who maintained that it was not necessary to remind police to set an example, because the police always obey the law and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. When I indicated that I had seen police not stop when I have been in the crosswalk on Strathmore, he said that if that were the case, citizens should report such incidents individually, and action would be taken. He has requested that the residents of Garrett Park report each incident of a police violation of the crosswalk law. So, in addition to my campaign to have each of us stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk, I ask that each of you assist by reporting any violation of that law by police officers. If you can, note the date, time, location, and the number (or license plate) of the police car and report it to the Bethesda District at 301-652-9200. When you call, let the person answering know that you are providing the information at the request of the Commander, whom we expect to take action. Also call the Town Office at 301-933-7488 or me and give us the same information so that we can follow up.

Peter Benjamin

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